

'PORT of CROMARTY FIRTH' PORT PASSAGE PLAN GUIDANCE (Inner P.Stn to Nigg Energy Park / Invergordon)

TIDAL INFORMATION

Currents generally follow the contours of the Firth west of Buss bank with the strongest current experienced between the 2nd and 4th hour of the ebb; this can be further increased by fresh water river run off after heavy rain or rapid snow thaws; which also tend to lengthen the duration of the ebb flow within the Cromarty Firth.

Tidal data is available on the chart BA 1889, UKHO publications, and the Port's website www.pocf.co.uk

24hr observed tidal heights can be obtained by contact with "Cromarty Firth Port Radio" on VHF 11.

HW / LW times between Cromarty Bank & Fairway buoy usually occur 10 / 15 minutes before Invergordon.

Strong NW to SW winds may cause a tidal surge and an initial increase in the predicted tidal heights; differences can be up to 1 mtr at Invergordon, although are expected to be less.

MOORED MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS, ANCILLARY PLANT & ANCHOR MOORING SYSTEMS & MARKER BUOYS

Moored MODUs and similar vessels are liable to be encountered anywhere within the Firth, including alongside berths. At night MODUs display a white or red light (Flash Morse 'U' every 10 or 15 sec) and aeronautical red lights on upper structures. Associated ancillary plant or surface buoys marking sea bed anchor mooring systems or wet stow chain can be encountered anywhere within the Firth.

Mariners are recommended to pass north of any anchored MODUs between Buss Bank & Invergordon maintaining a passing distance of at least 1 cable.

RADIO REPORTING

A Port Information Service covers the Firth:

'Cromarty Firth Port Radio' VHF 11

Tel.+44 (0) 1349 852308 (24 hr) E-mail...shipping@cfpa.co.uk

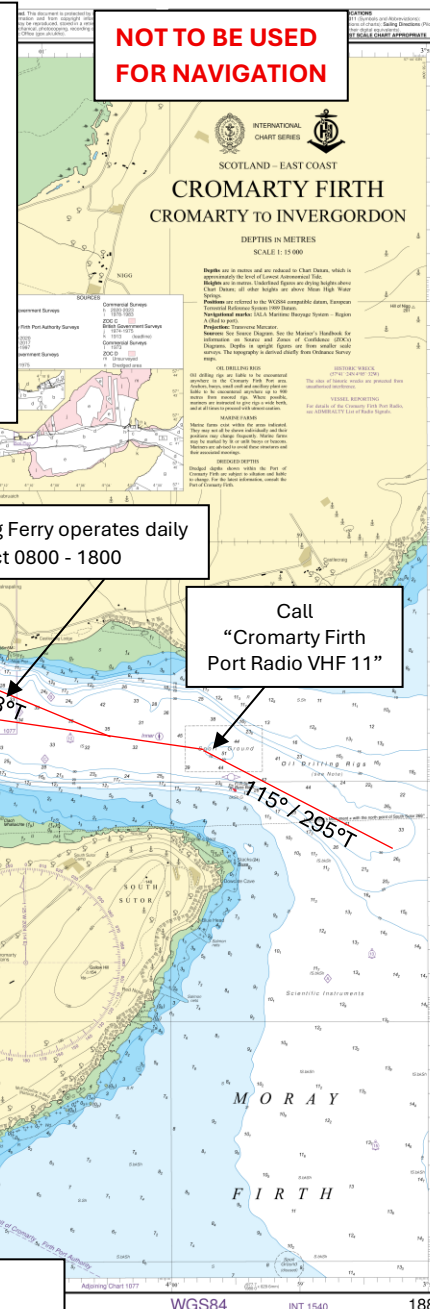
All vessels over 20m should maintain a listening watch on VHF 11 and report when passing 'Buss Bank Buoy' and again when all fast at a berth or anchorage and before departing a berth or anchorage.

Vessels less than 20m are strongly recommended to maintain a VHF listening watch VHF 11.

LOCAL NOTICES TO MARINERS, GENERAL & SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

Latest local Notices to Mariners and General and Special Directions are available at - www.pocf.co.uk

**NOT TO BE USED
FOR NAVIGATION**



PILOTAGE

Pilotage is compulsory west of longitude 4° W for

- Vessels 60m or over, including fishing vessels
- Vessels over 40m carrying more than 12 pax
- Vessels over 40m carrying hazardous cargo

Further details - www.pocf.co.uk

Pilot working Channel VHF 11

Pilot boards as follows:-

Outer Pilot Stn:

- Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
- Vessels rendezvousing with tugs before Inner Pilot Stn.

Inner Pilot Stn:

- All other vessels

HARBOUR TUGS / TOWAGE

Requested harbour tugs (booked through agents) will normally rendezvous with vessels during inward passage:-

- a) In vicinity of the Fairway buoy / Cromarty Bank buoy for MODUs or similar and boarding a pilot at the Outer Pilot Stn.
- b) At the Inner Pilot Stn for vessels bound for Nigg Energy Park or during inward passage for vessels bound for Invergordon at a position requested by Master/Pilot

Further details on Port of Cromarty Firth towage requirements refer to www.pocf.co.uk

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